The SA Arid Lands NRM Board is responsible for overseeing the management of natural resources in over half of South Australia, over 500,000 square kilometres. This means its annual income of about five million dollars amounts to less than $10 per square kilometre.

To help the Board meet its responsibilities, a land-based NRM levy and a NRM water levy are collected annually, providing critical leverage for the Board to obtain funding from government and industry. In 2016/17 the Board’s combined funding has contributed to the following activities.

**Pest management**
- Wild dog management – trapper training, bi-annual bait injection service, subsidised baits, trapper reimbursement
- Large feral herbivore control – camels, horses, donkeys (MI and MO districts) and pigs (MI district)
- Feral pig survey of landholders in NEP & NF districts to identify future management needs
- District weed action plans
- Goat and fox control in Gawler, Olary and Flinders Ranges
- Weed control in North Flinders, North East Pastoral, Gawler Ranges, Kinggonya and MO involving (boxthorn, buffel, cactus, pepper tree) and Noogoora Burr (NEP)
- Weeds of National Significance control (Mimosa, Buffel Grass)
- Cat management workshop and trapping

**Water security**
- Far North Wells water allocation planning
- Groundwater workshops – know your rights and obligations (Cameron’s Corner, Coober Pedy and Mungerannie), bore maintenance handbook, and individual property visits
- Water affecting activities permits
- Grazing management trial at Billa Kalina springs
- Finalise four-year project into understanding threats and pressures and system function of the Diamantina-Warburton catchment – baseline for assessing water affecting activities
- Channel country signage and shelters developed for key waterholes (Mungerannie Roadhouse)

**Community events**
- NEP-Fest, a North East Pastoral NRM Group Sustainable Agriculture field day, Weekeroo Station
- Marla Oodnadatta Field Day, Mount Barry Station and Coober Pedy Golf Club
- Channel Country Community Workshop, Mungerannie
- Native plant and weed identification workshops at Iron Knob, Marree, Andamooka, Roxby Downs, Coober Pedy and Oodnadatta
- Trees for Life workshops, Coober Pedy and Oodnadatta
- Billa Kalina Sticky Beak Day demonstrating soil conservation results, Billa Kalina Station
- Best-practice soil conservation and grading workshops at Mount Lyndhurst and Roxby Downs
- 2017 Landcare and Rangelands conferences – sponsorship of landholder attendance
- Performance is Personal workshops at Port Augusta, Hawker, Marree, Innamincka
- Bureau of Meteorology talks on climate variability at NEP-Fest and Marla Oodnadatta NRM Group field days
- Pastoral Profit workshops - Enterprise Analysis and Making Sound Financial Decisions (Coober Pedy); managing capital investments (Blinman)
- Weed identification and management workshops – Marree, Coober Pedy, Oodnadatta, Roxby Downs, Andamooka and Iron Knob

**Volunteer support**
- Goat impact assessments on three North Flinders pastoral properties
- Planning for community focused biological surveys on pastoral leases across the region
• Support for Blinman Parachilna Pest Plant Control Group volunteers who contributed approximately 4,000 hours per year to cactus control
• Sponsorship of the Great Tracks Clean Up Crew
• Establishment of Landcare Outback group based in Coober Pedy

Aboriginal engagement
• Camera monitoring of feral goat impacts (and assessment with Nantiwarrina Indigenous Protected Area
• Native vegetation browse assessment training refresher (feral goats and roos) (Mount Serle station)
• Cultural awareness training for staff
• Planning bush medicine and garden for Coober Pedy school (with Umoona)
• Planning bush garden at AIM building, Innaminka with Yandruwandha Yawarrawarka
• Devised and implemented a cultural information database and a healthy country plan for Wangkangurru-Yarluyandi administration
• Chemcert training for Arabana in Marree
• Finalising Killalpaninna Mission site ruins shelter, signage and pamphlet with Dieri people - installation c. mid July

School programs
• Leigh creek school fair – stall with kid friendly Bounceback-themed activities (Ranges Riches funding)
• RICE kindergarten lessons on fossils, animal scats and tracks and lizards.
• School of the Air lessons on feral animals, environmental careers and seeds
• Roxby Downs Plant Day with Roxby Downs Area School, St Barb's Primary School, Andamooka Primary School and Woomera Area School
• Trees for life workshops, Coober Pedy and Oodnadatta schools

Threatened species management
• Property Action Plans – continued to deliver threat mitigation identified in 10 plans in Flinders Ranges
• Stewardship negotiations with a Marree Innaminka property to protect high quality Kowari habitat

District support
Five Community Engagement Officers support the region’s six districts: North East Pastoral (Lou Gavin); Marla Oodnadatta (Lil Kamphorst); North Flinders (Matt Westover); Marree Innamincka (Jo Skewes); Gawler Ranges (Lou Gavin); Kingoonya (Sarah Voumard).

Community Engagement Officers support their local NRM Groups, facilitate local community events, hold conversations with their local communities around their NRM issues and concerns; and connect them with NRM programs.

Community NRM Grants
The NRM Board’s 2016/17 Community NRM Grants provided the region’s land managers, Aboriginal communities, progress associations and volunteer groups with access to $100,000 in funding. Twenty applications were received amounting to $180,000. These are currently being assessed.

Publications and communications
• Natural Resources SA Arid Lands Facebook page
• Natural Resources SA Arid Lands website
• e-Across The Outback bulletin
• Unlock your Pastoral Productivity videos covering climate forecasting for the rangelands; financial management and business literacy; on-property biosecurity; carbon farming; managing grazing for the long term
• Legendary Tracks and String of Springs tourism brochure reprints and hosting of apps/digital versions
• Carbon farming case studies

Regional NRM Plan
• Finalisation and consultation on the Board’s 10 year Regional NRM Plan which sets the direction for NRM activities in the region

Your levy contribution is a vital investment for the Board to deliver the 10-year Regional NRM Plan and take care of our natural resources today and for future generations.

Janet Brook, SA Arid Lands NRM Board Presiding Member

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